

limb preserved its heat, and the swelling visibly diminished. On the third day by pressing on the external and anterior part of the thigh, a quantity of bloody fetid matter was discharged from the wound. On the fifth day, 15th of March, the discharge of fetid clots continued, and on the 17th of March the patient died, having continued in a state of prostration from the time of his entrance, and coma having supervened. The daily discharge of clotted blood had reduced the thigh to its natural size, but no pulsation was perceptible in the member.

At the autopsy, a large cavity, which had contained the clotted blood discharged after the operation, was found communicating with a small aneurismal pouch, situated at 7 or 8 centimetres from the crural arch. The sac communicated with the artery by an opening of three lines in diameter, on a level with which the arterial coats were continuous with the parietes of the tumour which were softened, and in a state of suppuration.—*Archives Générales de Médecine*, June, 1840.

[The above case is well calculated to show the difficulty of diagnosis often-times attendant upon aneurisms—the indication for the treatment pursued was plain, and there is reason to believe might have terminated happily, had not the previous puncture been made. This mode of procedure, as is not unfrequently the case with these explorative punctures, by admitting the air into the large sanguine cavity which existed, gave rise to inflammation, which, as is usual under such circumstances, passed rapidly to a state of suppuration.—G. W. N.]

27. *Successful Ligation of the Primitive Carotid Artery for an Erectile Tumour of the Orbit, and results of experiments made upon animals, with a view to show the influence exercised upon them by ligation of this vessel.* By M. JOBERT.—M. De ——, of good constitution, had suffered for three years from a tumour situated in the orbit of the right side, upon the nature of which his medical advisers had disagreed, and many remedies had been uselessly employed. He states that in 1836, suddenly, and without any apparent cause, he felt his right eye become injected, and as if larger than the left. In August, 1839, the eye was protruded from the orbit, its movements were almost entirely abolished, the least touch caused pain, and it was intolerant to light. The conjunctiva was reddened, the eyelids distended and thinned, and vision gone. The tumour, which was at first but slightly prominent above the eye, had become greatly developed and in its march towards the exterior, it had destroyed a large extent of the orbital ridge. Pulsations isochronous with the pulse, manifest expansion and contraction, and a distinct purring left no doubt as to the tumour being composed of erectile tissue. An explorative puncture was followed by the escape of arterial blood. The patient was examined by many of the surgeons of Paris, and ligation of the primitive carotid artery was recommended for its cure, which operation was done by M. Jobert on the 7th of August, 1839, in presence of MM. Velpeau and Cloquet. At the moment of tightening the ligature on the artery, all pulsation in the tumour ceased. The face, at first pale, soon recovered its natural appearance, and neither the voice, sight, or intellectual faculties, suffered any change after it. On the 10th of August, the tumour had diminished in size, and the eye had recovered, in great part, its mobility, and was free from pain. The wound united in nearly its whole extent by the first intention. The ligature came away one month after the operation, and at the date of the report (August 15th, 1840,) the eye had retreated into the orbit. Pulsation in the arteries of the right side of the face could scarcely be perceived, while on the opposite side the pulsations were strong, and the calibre of the arteries much more considerable than on the right.

With a view of ascertaining the influence exercised upon animals by ligation of the carotids, M. Jobert instituted a series of experiments upon several classes of them, after the relation of which, he says, "It is certain that the ligature of the primitive carotid, of either one or both sides, does not interrupt the course of the blood in the ramifications of this artery any more in man, than in the animals of which we have been speaking. How then can it act in the cure of

erectile tumours of the head and face? It is, first, by the sudden subtraction of a large quantity of blood from the tumour; and, secondly, by the obstacle which it places to the transmission of the impulse of the heart, in all its force, into the tumour. By experiments upon animals he has ascertained, that beyond a ligature placed upon an artery, arterial blood flows in a continued jet, and not per saltem. From his experiments and observations, he concludes,

1. That erectile tumours of the orbit destroy the bones, in the same manner as aneurisms.
2. That they have the characters of aneurismal tumours, and are cured by ligature of the primitive carotid arteries of the corresponding sides.
3. That the cure is not owing to obliteration of the arteries above the point of ligature, but to want of impulse in the column of blood arriving in the tumour.
4. That the vertebral arteries are sufficient to carry on the cerebral circulation after ligature of the carotids.
5. Dogs, sheep, and rabbits experience no accidents after this operation.
6. Horses, on the contrary, cannot survive it, and die of apoplexy of the lungs.
7. Blood-letting, before or after the operation, diminishes the severity of the pulmonary lesions.

8. It is possible that with man the loss of a certain quantity of blood after the operation would have salutary effects.—*Gazette Médicale*, No. 33, Aug. 1810.

[The operation of M. Jobert, with the exception of one by M. Roux, also successful, is the first example of the kind ever done in France for the cure of erectile tumours of the orbit; but a very short time after it, M. Velpeau performed a similar one at La Charité, the circumstances attending which, as related by the operator to the Academy, are so rare and extraordinary that we copy them, although the case has not yet been fully reported. The patient was an adult, who was affected with erectile tumours in both orbits. On both sides the tumours offered all the signs characteristic of erectile tissue, and that on the right was large and projecting. Compression on the right primitive carotid completely arrested the pulsation and thrill in the tumour of the left orbit, and incompletely in that of the right, while pressure on the left primitive carotid put a stop completely to all pulsation in the tumour of the right orbit, and but incompletely in that of the left. The right primitive carotid was taken up, and immediately the tumour of the left side ceased to pulsate; the tumour of the right side shrank, but pulsation could still be perceived in it. At the end of ten days, all pulsation had ceased, and the patient appeared to be cured. He remained however in the hospital for six weeks, and during this interval it became evident that the cure was not complete, pulsation having reappeared by degrees in the tumour on the right side. In the month of February, 1810, (about six months after the operation,) he continues in nearly the same state as he was six weeks after it, and at this time compression on the carotid of the left side, arrested both the pulsation and thrill in the tumour of the right orbit. Ligature of the last named artery was now proposed, but was refused by the patient.—G. W. N.]

28. *Aneurism of the left primitive Carotid Artery—Ligature between the Sac and the Capillaries—Cure.* By M. COLSON.—The patient was a woman, ætat. 63, who presented upon the left side of the neck opposite the sterno-clavicular region, a tumour of considerable size. Its pulsation and other symptoms showed it evidently to be an aneurism seated at the origin of the primitive carotid artery. It was stated that her disease had commenced three years before, and she attributed it to having been seized by the neck and severely squeezed. The tumour was seated so low that the passing of a ligature between it and the heart appeared impossible, and M. Colson determined to make trial of the method of Brasdor. After the application of the ligature, pulsation in the tumour gradually diminished, and the difficulty of respiration, which had existed, entirely disappeared. Upon the seventy-fifth day the patient was looked